

“Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another.”



410 W. Franklin Str. Unit 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

**www.vvawi351.org
info@vvawi351.org**

*November/December
2016*



**Fox Valley's Only Chartered
Vietnam Veterans Organization Serving Area Veterans Since 1987**

V.V.A. CHAPTER #351 – Officers

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Vietnam Display.....Larry Cavanaugh
Panel Presentations.....John Koehler

Community Service

Adopt-A-Highway..... Jer Sanderfoot
Veterans Day Group.....David Evans
Military Support Group..... Mike Weaver

Chapter Appreciation

Appreciation Dinner.....Mike Weaver

Nomination / Constitution

Nomination.....Committee

Contacts

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VVA 351 MEETINGS

The Chapter meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm, 6:30 pm refreshments and social time. Call to Order 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

2016

November 28th – Chapter’s meeting date (4rd Monday of month)

December – no meeting

2017

January 19th – meeting date

March 16th – meeting date

April 20th – meeting date

May 18th – meeting date

MEETING FACILITY

Chapter meetings will be held at the V.F.W. Post 2778 – 501 N. Richmond Street – Appleton.

This is on the corner of Richmond Street and Packard Street.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 24th - Thanksgiving

December 25th - Christmas

January 1st – New Year’s Day (2017)

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

In July, 46 Chapter members and their guests went on a cruise of the Chain O'Lakes in King, WI. It was a beautiful evening for a cruise on the lakes and everyone enjoyed the camaraderie. "Admiral" Mike Hoks took the wheel for a while and regaled all with his sea stories.

CORRESPONDENCE

Vietnam Veterans of America,

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter Scholarship is going to assist me substantially in pursuing my postsecondary education. Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunity to learn from a Vietnam Veteran. I will carry what I learned from the experience of applying to this scholarship into my future.

Sincerely,

Jordan

(Jordan received \$1,000.00 as scholarship recipient.)

The following Thank You cards are from students of Appleton East High School when the Chapter's Educational Program visited the school. The program has artifacts of the Vietnam War and Chapter members go to the school to discuss their experience in the war or during that era. Dick Poukey was the coordinator at this high school.

Dear Dick,

Thank you so much for taking the time out of your day to visit with my students. Your kindness and honesty (and sense of humor!) made an impression on them. It was thoughtful of you to bring in your photo album – we feel honored to have been able to get a glimpse of that time

in your life, and I think it was important for students to hear about your positive experience in Vietnam. I hope you enjoyed your discussions as much as we did. Thank you for your service.

Signed by a teacher.

Dear Dick,

Thank you so much for taking the time to tell us what your experience was like in Vietnam. We loved seeing what it was like through your pictures and your funny story about John Wayne and the M60 between his legs. Your sense of humor was wonderful and we're so grateful that you opened up and shared both the good and bad. We hope to see you again someday.

Thank you again for your service.

Signed by several students.

Dear Dick,

Thank you for coming to our class and sharing your experience over in Vietnam. The pictures that you brought in spoke volumes about what life was like over on the other side of the Pacific. We never thought that we would see what life over in Vietnam looked like. The pictures helped to paint a clear picture in our heads. We hope all is well with you.

Thank you for your service.

Signed by several students.

Dear Dick,

Thank you for coming to our class to share your stories and experience with us. We found them quite enjoyable to listen to. We wish that the conversation we had lasted longer. It was interesting to hear about how your college education helped you come away with a positive experience and fond memories of the people and the places you visited.

Thanks for coming in and for your service.

Signed by several students.

Dear Friends of the Highground,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$4,000.00 for The Highground. Your donation towards the Welcome Center POW Tower project helps support the mission of healing and education at The Highground Veterans Park.

“Volunteers and Contributors are the Heart of The Highground”. These frequently spoken/written words ring true because they underlie the very essence of The Highground itself.

Enclosed please find a certificate, Highground information and again Thank You for your donation and your interest in The Highground. Please visit our website at www.thehighground.org for more news.

Sincerely,

**Kirk Rodman
Volunteer General Manager**

(Also this year, \$2,000.00 was donated to The Highground for a POW/MIA bench at their Welcome Center, and \$1,000.00 was donated towards the “Operation Persian Gulf Welcome Home”.)

SATURDAY MORNING VETERANS BREAKFAST

If you have some free time on Saturday mornings and would like to join other veterans for breakfast we would like to have you attend. We have had vets from WW II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq at our table. All vets and reservists are cordially welcome to attend, they do not have to be affiliated with any formal veteran organization so please feel free to bring a veteran buddy along if you would like to.

All of these are on Saturday mornings from 8:30 -10:00 am on November 12, 26; December 10 and 24.

For further info contact John Koehler @ 920 858 3310 or email kent1952@live.com

John Koehler '69-72' Semper Fi

SOCIAL EVENT

Open Social Event Invitation - Friday Fish Fry Dinner at Pullman's Restaurant in Appleton on Friday November 4th for veterans and their significant others if you would like to bring them. This is "come as you are" with no formal program other than to meet and greet other veterans and their guests. The chapter will be supplying name tags but other than this you are on your own for your drinks and food. All bills will be separate but we need a headcount a week prior to the dinner so they can plan seating arrangements for us. <http://pullmansrestaurant.com>

We are planning on cocktails at 5 pm with dinner at 6 pm.

If you are interested in attending this dinner, please RSVP Joe Eiting @ capteiting@aol.com or John Koehler @ kent1952@live.com by Thursday October 27, 2016. Joe's number is 788 5181 and John's is 920 858 3310.

PRESTIGIOUS MEDALS

Prestigious service medals someone might receive while serving in U.S. Armed Forces.

AIR FORCE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL



The Air Force Good Conduct Medal is the last version of the Good Conduct Medal. The medal was created on June 1, 1963. Air Force personnel were issued the Army Good Conduct Medal between 1947 and 1963 and for those serving both before and after 1963, the Army and Air Force Good Conduct Medals could be worn simultaneously on an Air Force uniform.

The criteria for award of the Air Force Good Conduct medal are as follows: It is awarded to Air Force enlisted personnel during a three-year period of active military service or for a one-year period of service during a time of war. Airmen awarded this medal must have had character and efficiency ratings of excellent or higher throughout the qualifying period including time spent in attendance at service schools, and there must have been no convictions of court martial or non-judicial punishment during this period.

QUILTS OF HONOR



Joe Eiting receiving a quilt from Roxane Ashcraft.



Larry Cavanaugh receiving a quilt from Roxane Ashcraft.



Steve Buntjer receiving a quilt from Roxane Ashcraft.



Tom Bartel receives a quilt from Roxane Ashcraft

At one of the Educational Program exhibits, some of the Chapter members received quilts from Quilts of Honor. Their mission is to provide comforting, healing quilts to America's heroes. To learn more about Quilts of Honor visit Webmaster@quilts-of-honor.org Beautiful quilts that provide comfort and were appreciated!!

CHAPTER'S WEBSITE

Some of you may have noticed some significant improvements in our Chapter's website during the last six months. This has been due to the efforts of Chapter member and webmaster Angie Coenen and North High School Student Alec Selle who worked many hours setting up and refining our online image for the general public and our members. If you have not seen the website lately take a look; odds are good you will find a news story or photo of yourself at one of the activities that have taken place during the last couple of years. <http://www.vvawi351.org/>



Appleton North High School student Alec Selle (L) and Chapter member and webmaster Angie Coenen (R).

SALUTE to the VIETNAM VETERAN

Our conscience embarked us by bus, van, and car
From the Highlands and Saigon to D.C. so far
The journey's one purpose—to commit that wall
Prelude

And show dedication to those who gave all.
Green-clad and still bitter—for so long unsung,
Battle-dressed Veterans—ex-soldiers old, young.

We started off right, filling Arlington's hall,
Then off in an instant, to our Vietnam mall.
To our wall full of symbols—confusion abounds,
The Wall

With blackness, a “V”, and no statues around,
And the names on the tribute—down, underground—
Giving way at first vision to feeling profound—
Taunt, drawn faces—low down or up high,
Imploring red-eyed for their God to stand by:
Reconing the crowd and searching for faces,
While finding new friends and sharing embraces—
Asking,

 “Where were you then?”
 And “How has it been?”
 So “What did you do?”
 Now “What does the monument mean to you?”

Then praying the names in the Chapel of Nam,
Honoring memories through sunsets and dawns.

Chapel

And

Reception

To a reception for all strung-out minds,

Craving the jargon and songs that still bind.
With energy flowing and arms intertwined
And feet slowly taking the grunts out of line,
Parading Veterans for millions march on

The March

Striving for union and new horizons,
Past voices and signs saying “Welcome back home”
To the men of our nation from New York to Nome,
Singing God bless our country to all who hear—
Finally catching the pulse of our nation so dear.

Through the quiet of most—straight, humble we stand,
To bury our flashbacks—to bind back our land.
Again we’re together, through prayers, words, and years

The Dedication

And flowers and candles and minds full of tears.
To truly be seen on our nation’s T.V.
Tough anchors cracking for all souls to see—
Veterans still suffering from man’s oldest game:
One boat, from that jungle—finally came.

In the supposed national harmony of those brief
moments amongst the long, arduous years, let it be
implanted forever that nearly 58,000 soldiers perished
and thousands of others still bear scars for shabbily
confused ideals that may never be understood or
forgiven.

Still

Did we construct the wall and day to honor our
dead, to expunge our souls, and to maintain our
dignity—or were we once again duped by self-seekers
striving only to advertise for the perpetrators of our
next endeavor?

R.K. Mitby

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

If you know of any Chapter member that is not feeling well or is having a surgery, contact Chuck Lewis at 667-4765. Chuck will send a get-well card. The card is a pick-me-up when you are not feeling well and lets those feeling down know that they are thought of.

CHAPTER SHIRTS

The Chapter will be offering t-shirts again. Place your order in September and October and pick the shirt up in November. The cost is \$20.00. If interested, contact Ed Lau at 739-7959 or come to the September or October meeting.

ENGINEER

An Engineer dies and goes to Hell. Dissatisfied with the level of comfort, he starts designing and building improvements. After a while, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. The engineer is a pretty popular guy.

One day, God calls and asks Satan, "So, how's it going down there?"

Satan says, "Hey things are going great. We've got air conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

God is horrified. "What? You've got an engineer? That's a mistake - he should never have gone down there! You know all engineers go to Heaven. Send him up here! "

Satan says, "No way. I like having an engineer on the staff. I'm keeping him."

God says, "Send him back up here or I'll sue."

"Yeah, right," Satan laughs, "and where are you going to get a lawyer?"

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Veterans In Need

American National Bank Fox Cities has partnered with the Fox Valley Veterans Council to build an emergency fund for Fox Valley Veterans in need. Funds are needed annually for housing, utility payments, clothing, food, medicine, transportation or any other high priority need. This emergency fund can save lives and families. Visit our website at americannationalbank.org/vets

Military Accounts

American National Bank Fox Cities offers a special Liberty Checking and Savings account with benefits for military service members on active duty, Reserves, National Guard, or Veteran status.

Bank Here & We Donate

American National Bank Fox Cities will donate to the Fox Valley Veterans emergency fund throughout the year when you open a new checking or savings account, or when you take out a mortgage loan. (Now offering VA loans).

- \$10 - Checking Account
- \$10 - Savings Account
- \$50 - Mortgage Loan



920.739.1040

2200 N. Richmond St.

Appleton, WI 54911

www.americannationalbank.org



VETERAN

A “Veteran” - - whether active duty, reserve, discharged or retired is someone who, at one point in life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America, for an amount of “up to, and including his or her life”. That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country today who no longer understand that fact!!

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You can send your application, copy of DD 214 and payment (\$100.00) to Vietnam Veterans of America – P.O. Box 64299 – Baltimore, MD 21264-4299. Be sure to state that you will be a member of V.V.A. – Chapter 351. Contact Phil Moore at 920-750-4110 or prespanther@att.net for the Chapter's \$50.00 life membership rebate.

Or send the information and \$50.00 to the address at the bottom and the Chapter will send it to National.

Name _____.

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Dues payable and mail to: Vietnam Veterans of America – 410 W. Franklin Str. Unit 1862 – Appleton, WI 54912-1862.

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